HUNGERFORD HALL.—The theatres constructed here are now in full operation, and offer attractions to all sight-seers. In one, M. Langlois is exhibiting some capital "Conjuring," a very clever Indian juggler, and various optical illusions; and in the other, M. Lassaigne as a magnetizer, and Miss Prudence are astonishing all who see them. Whether this last exhibition be regarded as the most extraordinary juggling that was ever effected, or the display of most mysterious natural phenomena, it should be seen by all who are curious in such matters.

MARYLEBONE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION.—The new theatre, which we lately gave an account of, is in active use. The managers are going a-head with some spirit. On Thursday, 18th, a subscription concert was given, in which Misses Birch and Dolby, Mr. W. Harrison, and others appeared. We do think that whether the leading inhabitants of a neighbourhood delight in the literary, the scientific, or the more strictly amusing or entertaining branches of such institutions, or in all three combined, they ought to give their substantial support to them for the sake of the others to whom they are most useful.

CHESTER ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—The monthly meeting of this society was held on the 1st. The Marquis of Westminster presided; and the Rev. G. B. Blomfield gave a topographical description of the original and present arrangements of the abbey buildings of St. Werburgh's, Chester. In reference to some remarks of the lecturer on the state of MSS. and abbey deeds, the Rev. Wm. Massie took occasion to bring before the meeting the general subject of the county, city, and ecclesiastical records. Those of the city were, as heaps of parchment, in heaps of dust, and the others at least needed a more minute classification, by some person well qualified to make a digest and descriptive catalogue of them for easy reference. Mr. Ayrton then drew the attention of the meeting to the objectionable character of new gas lamps now erecting on the city gates, and submitted a letter, which was adopted, and ordered to be signed by the secretary for transmission to the mayor, pointing out that the design of these lamps is out of character with the gates on which they are being placed.

ILBE'S PATENT MARBLE.—The scarcity of the choicest kinds of marble and the expense of working, necessarily renders this material very limited in its application. As a partial remedy for this, numerous attempts have been made to supply the demand by artificial manufacture, and notwithstanding a growing feeling against "imitation," will doubtless continue to be so. The "patent marble" now before us, manufactured upon new principles, gives a successful imitation of many kinds of rare marbles, and is said to be durable and cheap.

NEW TABLE OF CAB FARES.—A correspondent, J. F., suggests the formation of cab fare tables, founded on the principle of the square, or somewhat like the common multiplication table, with names of places instead of the multipliers, and amounts of fare between the two in the place of the product. An immense number of fares could thus be condensed into a small space, and be made intelligible to every one who understood the ordinary multiplication table. Even this, however, unless as a previous check, might be superseded by the use of the track-dial, measuring the distance run over by the cab-wheel and pointing it out to every passenger. The only objection we can see to this latter, on the faith, of course, that it measures the ground with exactitude, is the power it might give the cabman to take roundabout routes, for the purpose of lengthening his course, or of clearing uncompleted miles. The table suggested by our correspondent might be a check in such a case, and, at all events, it would have the advantage, which the dial has not, of informing passengers beforehand what they will have to pay between any two given points. In cases of cross-running, however, from place to place in irregular transit here and there, the dial should decide.

MARGATE PIER COMPETITION.—As the surveyor to the directors of the Margate Pier and Harbour Company, I am in a position to give a distinct contradiction to a correspondent's remarks appearing in THE BUILDER of the 13th inst., relating to the competition for a new landing-place. The directors have no plan before them: when the question of a new landing-place was first raised, a plan was offered to them, which they declined to accept or consider, nor has it been brought before the directors in any way; and I am quite assured that their only object will be to select from the plans which may be submitted to them that which may seem best suited to their requirements, without reference to its author.—WM. CAVALLA.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.—As you are taking some interest in the proposed new bridge at Westminster, let us hope you will exercise your influence in deterring the public mind from a cheap bridge, more especially from *the so-called cheap foundations* as are now being exemplified at Rochester and elsewhere, and such as were advocated before a committee of the House of Commons last session upon Westminster-bridge. The failures which have taken place in the foundations of the present Westminster and Blackfriars bridges ought to be a salutary lesson against *cheap foundations*. With the examples of Smeaton, Rennie, and Telford before us, and the noble bridges of Waterloo, Southwark, and London, which decorate the metropolis, it would be to our eternal dishonour if any but the most solid bridge were erected at Westminster.—* * —— It is to be hoped the architect will not forget to provide a railway on the new bridge to the central terminus in the City, as was proposed some little time since, as a branch to one of the railways on the other side of the river.—A BUILDER.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOIRÉE AT NORTHAMPTON.—A grand *soirée* was held on Wednesday evening last, in the Corn Exchange, Northampton, to commemorate the opening of a new suite of buildings for the town and county Mechanics' Institute. There were nearly 800 persons present, including the principal resident nobility and gentry. Lord Fitzwilliam took the chair, and addressed the assembly, as did Mr. Layard, the traveller, in an interesting speech. Mr. Charles Knight, too, Mr. V. Smith, M.P., Mr. George Cruikshanks, Lord Henley, Dr. Conolly, and other gentlemen, addressed the meeting.

CONDITION OF FLEET MARKET.—I am old enough to remember when Fleet Market, in Farringdon-street, now, was one of the most frequented spots in London. But, alas! the spot is wonderfully changed. Putting the market on one side of the same street (on the shelf), and building a row of houses in front, has as completely crippled its use as though it had been sent out of town. You now enter a dreary cell-looking precinct, and if you enter it in Shoe-lane, your very limbs are in danger all the way through to Farringdon-street. It is a dank, dark, dismal hole, not even light enough for a criminal prison. Pray recommend them to put lights into the roof, and open the place to Farringdon-street WIDE. It ought, from its position, to be of as much use as Leadenhall or Newgate.—JOHNNY.

DONCASTER WATERWORKS, &c.—At a meeting of the Local Board of Health on Wednesday week, it was resolved "that the plan of Messrs. Nicholson and Tone, so far as the service pipes and tanks, be agreed to (previous to transmission to the General Board of Health for approval), but that the power of the present wheel be tested" before farther adoption. A letter from Mr. Trupp, of Manchester, was presented, but not read, in which the board was strongly dissuaded from taking their water from the river Don, into which the drainage from Rotherham, Sheffield, Chesterfield, and other places was discharged before the water reached Doncaster. He recommended a minor stream called the "Beck" or "Great Inga," about five miles on the road to York, as a preferable source. Mr. Milner, a member of the board, offered his gratuitous services as surveyor to carry out their local Act.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.—Mr. Marsh Nelson has been appointed architect to the theatre, in the room of the late Mr. Beazley.

TENDERS

Delivered 12th instant for the erection of the Bloomsbury Baths and Wash-houses. Messrs. P. F. Healy and G. Pownall, architects. The quantities taken out by Mr. W. Wright and Mr. C. Balam.

Jewell	£11,134	...	£165
Hicks	10,800		255
Carter	[illegible]	...	195
Little	9,732	...	180
T. Amen	9,600	...	300
Rigby	9,440	...	180
Coleman	9,349	...	150
Reading	9,239	...	220
Piper	9,141	...	300
Sanders and Woolcot	9,130	...	196
Holland	8,997	...	—
Mansfield	8,983		190
Pottock	8,980	...	118
Myers	8,501		165
Locke and Needham	8,195		277
Curtiss	8,147		842
Cooper	7,990		185
Scissons and Robinson	7,732		222

The second amounts were for enameling the slate of the first-class Baths.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*Potter and Pugin v. Kempton.*"—Mr. Potter asserts that his name should stand more prominently in the report of trial than is done. He must settle this with Mr. Payne.

"*Retaining Walls.*"—Perhaps some of your intelligent readers will be good enough to give a rule by which I may arrive at the best proportions for a retaining-wall of brickwork, and the batter proper to be given per foot. We will suppose the bank to be supported is of *made* ground, and 16 feet perpendicular.—A. Z.

"J. B.," "W. R." (we have not time to mill), "R. E.," "W. D. F.," "J. T. A. W." (requests us to forward him a piece of a tile and brick kiln, a block he wishes to erect, and liberally enclosed a postage-stamp. We cannot do it at the price), "A Subscriber" (Bristol), "W. H.," "W. G. B.," "R. K.," "J. W.," "Rev. G. M. J.," "R. W. A." (call on the Editor), "M. B.," "A Subscriber," (Cheltenham), "J. H. P.," "J. M." (we shall pay a visit), "W. N.," "S. G. T.," "W. U.," "W. J.," "A. and P.," "R. B.," "T. D. B.," "E. W. G.," "J. E. W." (received), "W. B.," "Sir W. J.," "C. C." (has stated as your address).

NOTICE.—Advertisements and other matters relating to advertisements should be addressed to the "Publisher," and not to the "Editor;" all other communications should be addressed to the Editor, and not to the Publisher.

"*Books and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

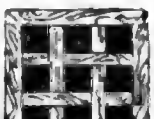
BENNETT'S THERMOMETERS, 65, Cheapside.—Railways, baths, churches, gardens, and observatories SUPPLIED with every kind of THERMOMETER at the manufactory, where alone they may be had for 30s. as may be attested from, at least such, as 6-inch solution Standard, adapted to suit every place, purpose, and climate. Barometers of equally moderate prices.—BENNETT, Watch, Clock, and Instrument Maker to the Royal Observatory, the Board of Ordnance, the Admiralty, and the Queen.—65, Cheapside.

TO ARCHITECTS, BUILDERS, &c.

ALL descriptions of TERRA COTTA, CEMENT, and PLASTER CASTINGS, executed in a first-rate manner, on reasonable terms, by J. HERBERT and SON, Modellers, &c., 48, Pleasant-row, Kennington. A splendid assortment of Corinthian, Ionic, and other Capitals; Centre Flowers, Balustres, Trusses, &c.; Elizabethan and other Chimney Shafts.

ARCHITECTS or BUILDERS requiring ENRICHMENTS in COMPOSITION, CEMENT, or PLASTER, cannot have better executed work than that produced by WM. SMART, jun., of 15, CROWN-STREET, FINSBURY, who will be happy to give Estimates for work of any magnitude, at a reduced scale of charges. Architects' designs modelled with precision, and generally unusually carefully carried out. Established in the trade three-fourths of a century.

PARQUET BORDERS are continually increasing in demand, being employed in most of the newly-built mansions for the nobility and gentry. They are manufactured in two or more shades of wood, of tasteful designs, varying in price from 3s. 6d. to 10s. per superf. foot, including laying down and all expenses. A very elegant border, suitable to surround the richest carpet, can be had at 4s. to 5s. per square foot.



These borders can also, by a new process, be laid flush with the old floors, at a moderate expense.

Further particulars may be obtained on furnishing the outlines of the rooms for which they may be required to the LONDON PARQUETRY, Whitefriars-street.

N.B. THE SPLENDID RUSSIAN PARQUETS, which were exhibited in the Crystal Palace, are now on show at THE LANSHAM BAZAAR, REGENT-STREET.

COLOSSEUM — WILL CLOSE AFTER THE HOLYDAYS.—THE ORIGINAL and EXTRAORDINARY PANORAMA of LISBON, painted by Mr. Parris, will be EXHIBITED, with the other splendid features of the Establishment, entirely re-embellished, daily from half-past Ten till Four. The grand PANORAMA of PARIS by NIGHT, by Danson and Bar, every evening (except Saturday) from seven till Ten. The most admired music from two till half-past Four, and during the evening. When the conservatories, saloons, &c., are brilliantly illuminated. Admission, 1s.; evening, 2s.; children and schools half-price. CYCLORAMA, Albany-street, admission 1s. A grand moving Panorama of Lisbon and the Earthquake in 1755, is exhibited daily at Three and every evening (except Saturday), at Eight o'clock, illuminated by appropriate music on the new grand Apparatus. Children and schools half-price.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—Lectures by George Barker, Esq., on the Ballad Music of England, commencing with his celebrated Entertainment "An English Christmas," every Evening for a fortnight, except Saturday, at Eight o'clock.—Lectures by J. H. Pepper, Esq., on Ward's New Submarine Lamp.—Lecture by Dr. Bachhoffner on the Philosophy of Scientific Recreation.—Numerous Free Models, Works of Art, &c., from the Great Exhibition, will be explained by Mr. Trupp.—Optical Effects in Dissolving Views, Microscopes, Chromatropes, &c.—Diver and Diving Bell, &c. &c.—Admission, to Schools and Children under ten years of age, half-price.—Open daily from Eleven to Five, and every Evening, except Saturday, from seven till Half-past Ten.